SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED VAULT

Annual Progress Report 2025

NordGen

NordGen report on the agreement on the funding, management and operation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

Contents

Front page photo: Still significant interest from media and other visitors during the Svalbard Global Seed Vault deposit events. Photo: Jonatan Jacobsson, NordGen. October 2025

2025 at a glance

- In total 47 genebanks deposited 46,781 safety duplicate seed samples in the Seed Vault during 2025. By the end of the year the total holding of seed accessions in the Seed Vault was 1,378,238 samples deposited by 131 genebanks/institutes.
- Eight genebanks deposited seeds for the first time in 2025. New depositor genebanks were located in Georgia, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Vietnam, Malawi, Sweden, Peru and Philippines.
- The fourth meeting of the International Advisory Panel was organized in Longyearbyen.
- Several seed deposits were supported by programs and projects managed by Crop Trust and The International Plant Treaty, e.g. the Crop Trust managed BOLD-project and the IT Benefit Sharing Fund.
- The last seed samples belonging to the 100-year seed germination experiment in the Seed Vault were deployed in 2025 and the establishment of the project is thereby completed.
- By the end of 2025, all seed boxes deposited between 2008 and 2023 has been equipped with nanofilm labels displaying data on conserved seed samples.

Foreword

NordGen manages and operates the seed deposits at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in partnership with the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food (LMD) and the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust) and in accordance with the Three-Party Agreement between the partners, signed for ten years and valid from 1st of July 2017.

The objective of the Seed Vault is to provide a safety net for the international conservation system of plant genetic resources, and to contribute to securing the maximum amount of plant genetic diversity of importance to humanity for the long term. We are happy to note that the success of the Seed Vault has continued also this year, not at least confirmed by a significant number of new depositors joining during 2025.

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault also received considerable international attention during the year. The 3-party collaboration between LMD, Crop Trust & NordGen, was recognised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for its work on the Seed Vault. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault was also named as one of the most iconic inventions of the last 25 years in a New York Times news item.

By the end of 2025, the Seed Vault holds 1,378,238 safety duplicates representing wide inter- and intra-specific crop diversity deposited by 131 genebanks from around the world. Eight of these deposited seeds for the first time in 2025. This result is partly due to high activity in the BOLD- and Seeds for Resilience projects, and we appreciate good cooperation with Crop Trust in these two projects, funded respectively by the Norwegian and German governments.

During 2025, the last seed samples belonging to the 100-year Seed Longevity Experiment in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault were deployed in the Seed Vault. NordGen is deeply thankful to cooperating genebanks for, despite difficulties related to the covid pandemic and to bureaucratic constraints over the last five years, providing seed samples for the experiment, Our thanks go to colleagues and staff at the National Rice Seed Storage Laboratory for Genetic Resources in Thailand, the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research in Germany, the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics located in India, Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária in Portugal and Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária in Brazil.

We take this opportunity to thank our partners LMD and the Crop Trust for the good collaboration. I would also like to thank Statsbygg for the cooperation and excellent working conditions when handling seed deposits in Svalbard.

We are very pleased to see that confidence and global interest in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault seed depositing continued to grow in 2025.

Lene Krøl Andersen
Executive director NordGen

1. Introduction

This annual progress report for the Svalbard Global Seed Vault gives an overview of the NordGen operation of the Seed Vault and related activities in 2025. NordGen's responsibilities are stated in the Three-Party Agreement providing for the long-term funding, management and operation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. The annual progress report is prepared by NordGen in accordance with obligations in the Three-Party Agreement Article 3.19.a).

The overall guidelines for the NordGen mission is to fulfil the objectives for the Svalbard Global Seed Vault as they are expressed in the standard deposit agreement between depositors and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, saying that the Seed Vault was established with the "*objective to provide a safety net for the international conservation system of plant genetic resources, and to contribute to the securing of the maximum amount of plant genetic diversity of importance to humanity for the long term in accordance with the latest scientific knowledge and most appropriate technique*".

The operation of the Seed Vault is collaborative at several levels. At the management level NordGen collaborates closely with LMD and Crop Trust. At the facility operation level NordGen cooperates with Statsbygg in Longyearbyen. At the seed logistics level, we cooperate with the institutions sending safety duplicates as well as the chain of logistics and security partners involved in shipment and transport to the Seed Vault. The partnerships at all levels have worked very well also in 2025.

2. Seed deposits and depositors in 2025

In total, 47 genebanks deposited 46,781 seed samples in 2025. These figures are slightly lower than reported for 2024, which was a very active year due to significant impact of the BOLD-project supporting many deposits from genebanks in developing countries. Three institutes deposited seed twice during the year and one genebank made deposits at all three seed deposit events. Seven new genebanks signed the DA and eight genebanks deposited seeds for the first time in 2025.

Table 1. Newcomers 2025. Genebanks that either signed the Deposit agreement in 2025 and/or deposited their first seeds in 2025. *) MARDI made their first deposit already in 2024, but the DA was formally signed in 2025.

Institute	**DA signed 2025**	**Seed deposit 2025**
International Center for Biosaline Agriculture, UAE	X	X
Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre	DA signed 2024	X
Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria	DA signed 2024	X
Scientific Research Center of Agriculture, Georgia	X	X
Can Tho University, Vietnam	X	X
Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute	X	X *)
Sveaskogs förvaltning AB, Sweden	X	X
Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agraria, Peru	X	X
Philippine Rice Research Institute	DA signed 2024	X
Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnologia Agricolas, Guatemala	X	

In addition, it is worth noting that some more genebanks have sent seeds to Svalbard without separate notifications in the Seed Portal. The Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT) and The Genetic Resources and Biotechnology Institute (GRBI), both located in Zimbabwe have deposited seeds in cooperation with and under the Deposit Agreement signed with the South-African regional genebank SPGRC, both also supported by the BOLD project.

And the Tanzania department of the World Vegetable Centre and the ICRISAT department in Malawi have deposited seeds, using their mother organisations agreements and Seed Portal entries.

Table 2. Seed Vault deposits at the Seed Vault opening in February 2025.

Institute / Genebank	**Acronym**	**Country**	**Acc.**
International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture	ICBA	United Arab Emirates	290
Agricultural Research Institute of Burundi	ISABU	Burundi	892
Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin	INRAB	Benin	57
The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation	Embrapa	Brazil	3003
Africa Rice Center	AfricaRice	Ivory Coast	1159
Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza	CATIE	Costa Rica	1100
Scientific Research Center of Agriculture	SRCA	Georgia	206
World Agroforestry Centre	ICRAF	Kenya	278
State Forest Service	VMT	Lithuania	80
Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre	MPGRC	Malawi	813
Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute	MARDI	Malaysia	518
Obafemi Awolowo University	OAU	Nigeria	560
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture	IITA	Nigeria	1115
The Norwegian Forest Seed Centre	NFSC	Norway	25
National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory	NPGRL	Philippines	75
Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Research Centre	APGRC	Sudan	1884
Nordic Genetic Resource Center	NordGen	Sweden	438
Sveaskogs Förvaltning AB	Sveaskog	Sweden	8
National Rice Seed Storage Laboratory for Genetic Resources	NRSSL	Thailand	300
SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre	SPGRC	Zambia	1135
Totals	**20 depositors**		**13936**

Table 3. Seed Vault deposits at the Seed Vault opening in June 2025.

Institute / Genebank	Acronym	Country	Acc.
Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety	AGES	Austria	5
Laboratory of Genetics, Biotechnology and Seed Sciences	GbioS/PAGEV	Benin	253
Warwick Genetic Resources Unit	UKVGB	United Kingdom	286
National Genebank of Kenya	KALRO	Kenya	749
National Institute of Agricultural Sciences. Rural Development Genebank	RDA	South Korea	4000
International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas	ICARDA	Lebanon	2707
Centre for Genetic Resources	CGN	Netherlands	716
National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory	NPGRL	Philippines	149
Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute	IHAR	Poland	920
Research Institute of Plant Production Piestany	SVKPIEST	Slovakia	160
Seed Savers Exchange	SSE	USA	25
Can Tho University	CTU	Vietnam	1000
SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre	SPGRC	Zambia	228
Totals	**13 depositors**		**11198**

Table 4. Seed Vault deposits at the Seed Vault opening in October 2025.

Institute / Genebank	Acronym	Country	Acc.
Australian Pastures Genebank	APG	Australia	3687
Agroscope Changins	AGROSCOPE	Switzerland	921
Czech Agrifood Research Center	CARC	Czech Republic	150
Instituto Nacional Autónomo de Investigaciónes Agropecuarias	INIAP	Ecuador	890
International Livestock Research Institute	ILRI	Ethiopia	1518
National Plant Genebank, Ministry of Agriculture	HRPGB	Croatia	47
International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics	ICRISAT	India	2243
Latvian State Forest Research Institute 'Silava'	LSFRI	Latvia	67
Institut National de la recherche Agronomique	INRA	Morocco	863
Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agraria	INIA	Peru	25
Philippine Rice Research Institute	PhilRice	Philippines	4417
Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute	IHAR	Poland	1230
Portuguese Bank of Plant Germplasm	INIAV	Portugal	473
Suceava Genebank	BRGV	Romania	68
Nordic Genetic Resource Center	NordGen	Sweden	381
The World Vegetable Center	WorldVeg	Taiwan	3177
Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute	TARI	Taiwan	320
Uzbek Research Institute of Plant Industry	UzRIPI	Uzbekistan	20
SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre	SPGRC	Zambia	1150
Totals	**19 depositors**		**21647**

By the end of 2025 141 institutions have signed the DA. Out of these 131 have deposited seeds, and by the end of the year the total holding of seed accessions in the Seed Vault was 1,378,328 representing 6521 species.

Two depositors that have deposited non-PGRFA seed samples with special permissions from the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food are not included in the publicly accessible part of the Seed Portal. These are the Forest Research Institute, Myanmar (seeds of wild growing orchids) and the University Centre in Svalbard (seeds of non-PGRFA species in the Svalbard wild flora). Figures for seed deposits and withdrawals during the years from 2008 to 2025 are shown in Table 5 and visualized by graphs in Figure 1.

Table 5. Deposited and withdrawn seed accessions per year and in total for the years 2008-2024. Figures showing status at the end of each year.

Year	Deposited pr year	Accumulated	Withdrawals	Current holdings
2008	320549	320549		320549
2009	169505	490054		490054
2010	111101	601155		601155
2011	113364	714519		714519
2012	58078	772597		772597
2013	29155	801752		801752
2014	38052	839804	3[1)]	839801
2015	36130	875934	38073[2)]	837858
2016	42979	918913		880837
2017	64403	983316	54354[2)]	890886
2018	92638	1075954		983524
2019	32572	1108526	24064[2) 3)]	992032
2020	82501	1191027	40 [4)]	1074533
2021	50926	1241953		1125419
2022	69825	1311778		1195244
2023	71895	1383673	12 [5)]	1267127
2024	64331	1448004		1331458
2025	46781	1494785	1 [6)]	1378238
Totals		**1494785**	**116507**	**1378238**

[1)] *Three Hordeum accessions withdrawn by NordGen for regeneration*

[2)] *ICARDA withdrawals in 2015, 2017 and 2019*

[3)] *Seven Secale accessions withdrawn by Agroscope, Switzerland for regeneration*

[4)] *40 samples withdrawn from the 2020 seed deposit before departure from ICARDA. These samples were already registered in the Seed Portal and the number appears as a virtual withdrawal.*

[5)] *A review of the total NordGen deposits in 2023 revealed that 12 registered accessions did not exist in the seed boxes and the corresponding data was removed from the Seed Portal.*

[6)] *One sample from National Horticultural Research Institute (NGA003) was not properly sealed and therefore removed*

A complete list of signatories and their deposited seed samples are shown in Annex 1. Further details and key figures for the years 2017 to 2025 for seed deposits, stored boxes, depositors and seed deposit events are shown in Annex 3.

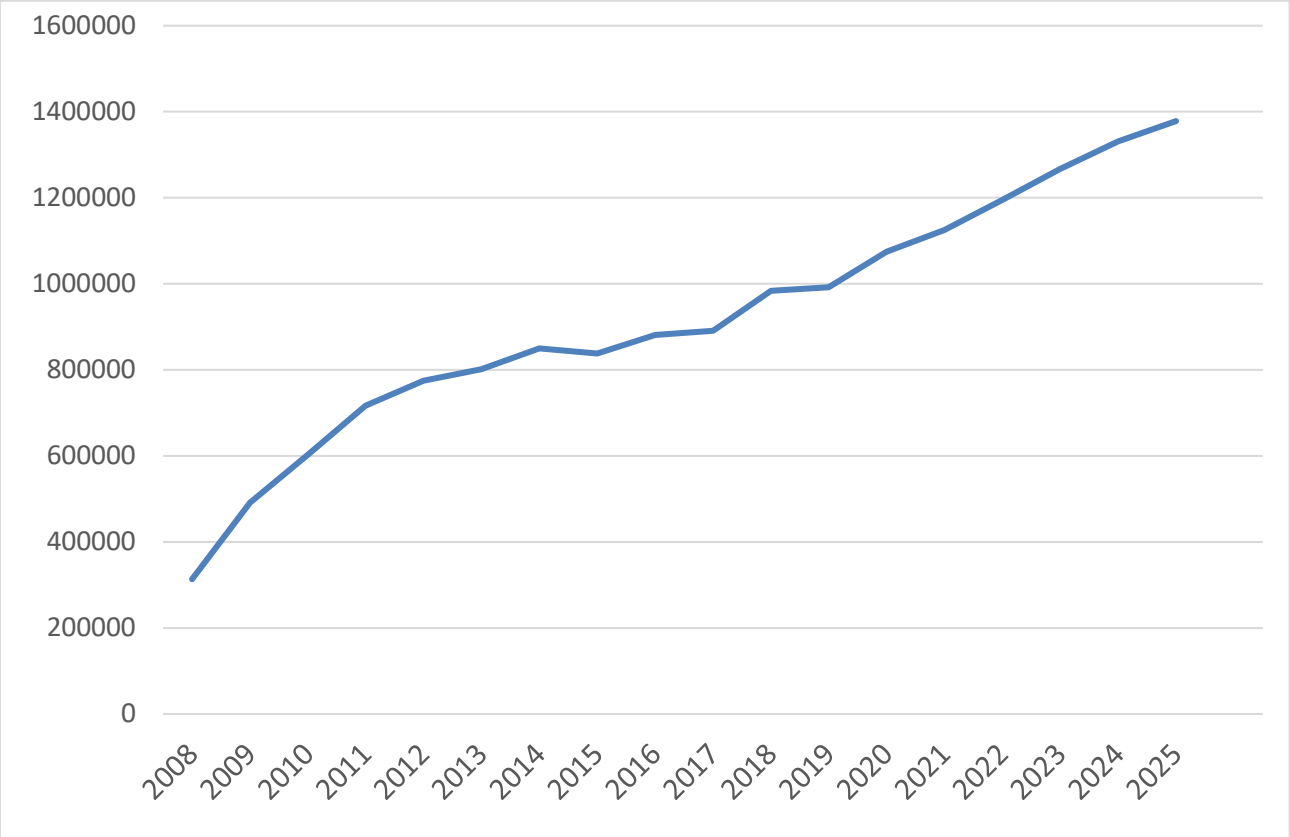

Figure 1. Seed samples conserved in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, accumulated numbers over 2008 to 2025. ICARDA withdrawals took place in 2015, 2017 and 2019, causing drops in the total numbers of deposited samples during these three years.

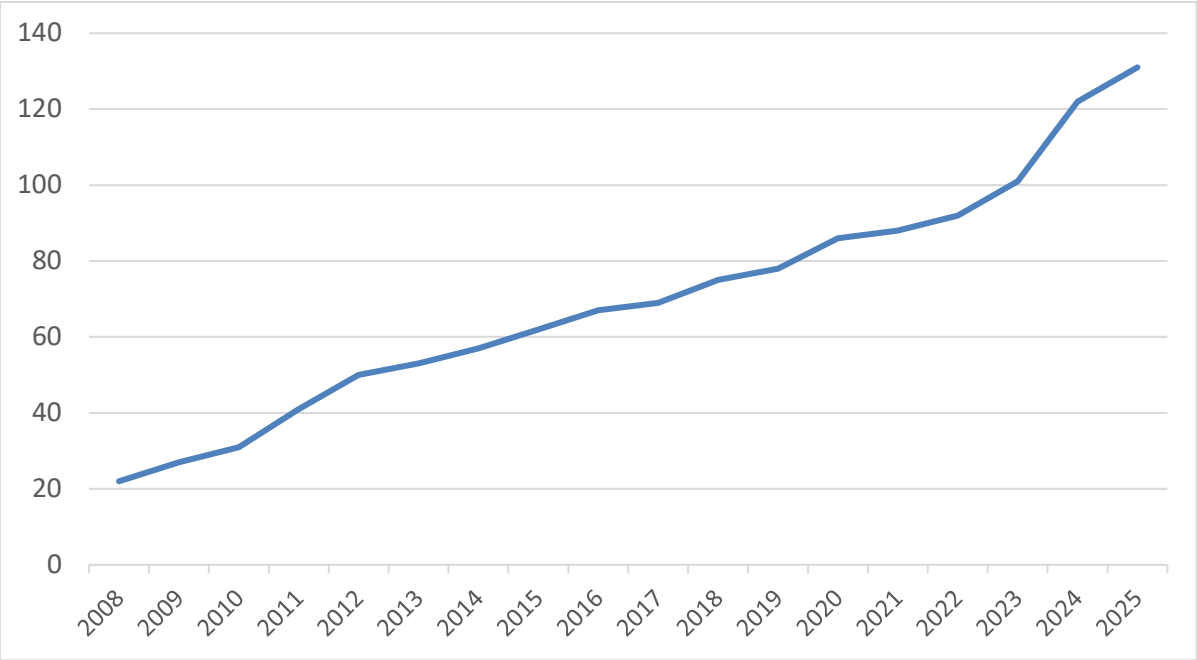

Figure 2. Genebanks that deposit seeds for the first time in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, accumulated numbers over the years 2008 to 2025

Seed Vault reports and media outreach have over the years emphasized the number of seed samples deposited pr year. This number has indeed remained at a constantly high level, see Figure 1. For the future, when the larger genebanks have deposited large parts of their collections in the Seed Vault, it is expected that the number of accessions deposited pr year will be lower. The focus and updated objectives should then focus more on recruiting new depositor institutes, who often have smaller collections, however, their material may be unique and of significant value.

Figure 2. shows the increase of active depositors from the start in 2008 (22 genebanks) to the situation in 2025, when 131 genebanks have deposited seeds. This is a remarkable achievement.

The graph shows, however, also that many genebanks with limited resources depend on external support for producing, packing and sending seeds to Svalbard. The Bill Gates project organized by Crop Trust in 2011-2012 resulted in a higher number of new depositors during that period.

During the last two years a handful of projects have supported genebanks in this effort. In particular projects organized by Crop Trust and the Plant Treaty have led to a significant increase in the number of new depositors, 38 newcomers during 2023-2025. This leads to the conclusion that many genebanks really are committed to securing their genetic material and are eager to seize the opportunity to multiply and send seeds to Svalbard when financial support is available.

It should also be notified that parts of the seed collection in the Seed Vault are getting older, and sooner or later previously deposited seed samples must be replaced. Increasing focus on that task will be crucial during the coming years, and international projects and available funds should be directed to this task as well.

Figure 3 shows the proportion and numbers of safety duplicates deposited by different categories of genebanks by the end of 2025. The largest share (55,4%) of the current holdings in the Seed Vault is deposited by IARCs represented by institutes belonging to the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR), the Asian Vegetable Research Centre (AVRDC) and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE), all holding collections of PGRFA in trust for the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

A new international centre, the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), located in the United Arab Emirates, deposited seeds for the first time in 2025.

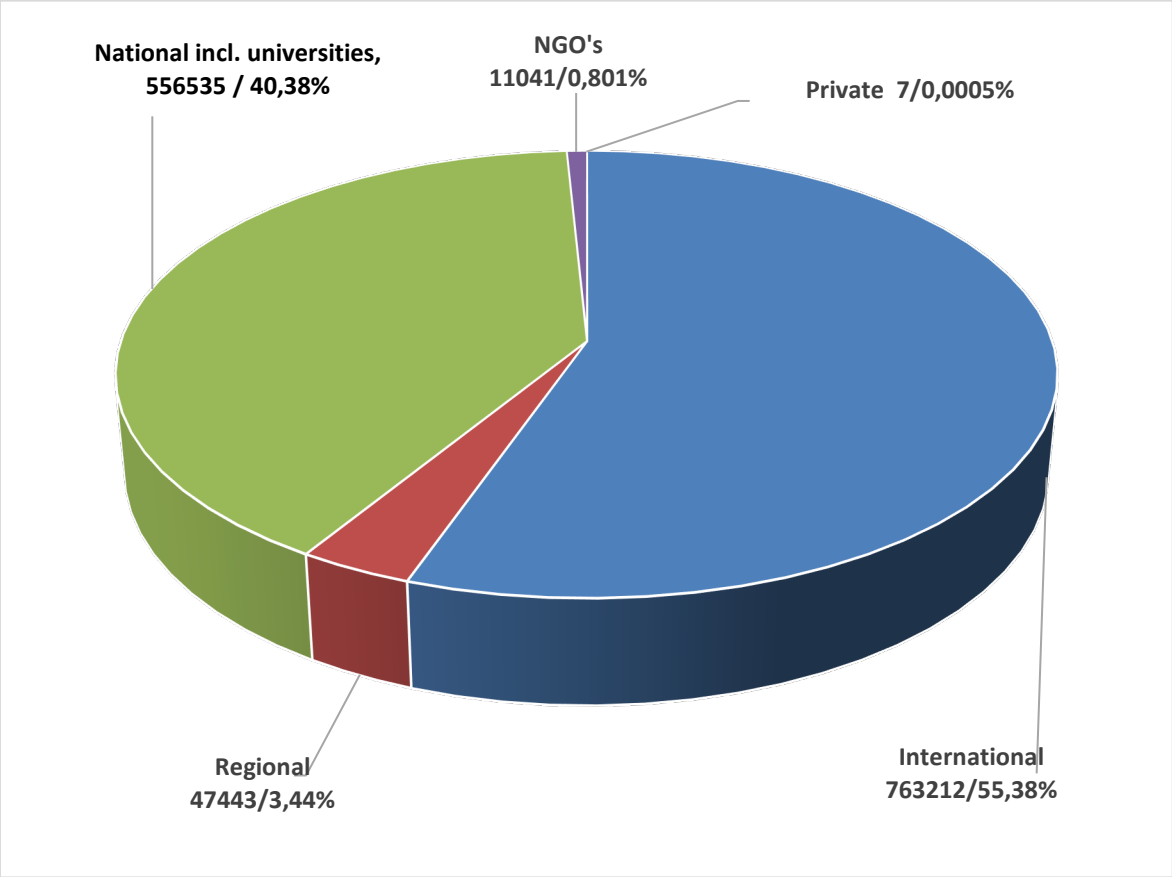

Figure 3. Proportion and numbers of safety duplicates currently deposited in The Seed Vault at the end of 2025 by different categories of genebanks.

In total, 167 seed boxes were taken into the Seed Vault in 2025. Over the years, 4362 regular seed boxes have been deposited in the Seed Vault. 325 boxes have been taken out, and consequently the number of regular seed boxes in the Seed Vault by the end of 2025 is 4037. The number of seed boxes deposited pr year is shown in Figure 4.

It could be worth noting that the peaks during the last ten years are related to special events where genebanks received special invitations for sending seeds, 2018 (the 10-year anniversary), 2020 (the Seed Summit with the Norwegian Prime minister and international guests) and 2023 (the 15-year anniversary).

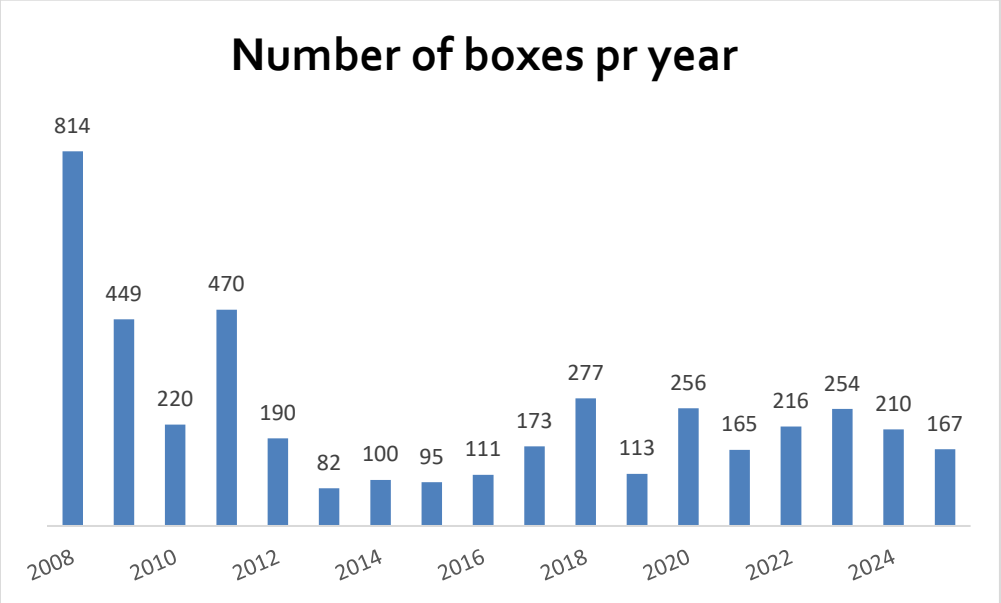

Figure 4. Numbers of boxes deposited per year 2008-2025. (Withdrawals not shown.)

In addition, there are 114 boxes registered as test boxes in the Seed Vault. Thirty of these belong to the *100-year Seed Longevity Experiment in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault*. Nine genebanks have deposited test samples in one or more separate boxes. In addition, boxes that contain seeds not categorized as regular crop seeds in the Seed Portal database are marked as test boxes (pasture seed mixtures from the Millennium Seed Bank, orchid seeds from the Forest Research Institute, Myanmar and seeds from the wild flora in Svalbard, deposited by the University Centre in Svalbard).

Seed shipment logistics imply that depositor genebanks send their seeds directly to Svalbard. Logistics in Svalbard have been handled in collaboration with the local company Pole Position Logistics, who pick up the seed boxes upon arrival, store them temporarily until the Seed Vault opening date and bring the boxes to the airport for X-ray security scanning and afterwards to the Seed Vault.

Security screening of seed boxes upon arrival in Svalbard has been handled in collaboration with Avinor at Longyearbyen airport and the security company Avarn Security Aviation AS. Statsbygg has provided

support with logistics and technical backstopping in Svalbard and accompanied at all work inside the Seed Vault. The work carried out in Svalbard has been carried out smoothly and efficiently in 2025.

Seed samples and seed boxes that have been shipped to Svalbard have arrived safely and have been secured in the Seed Vault. For the first time, one seed box, shipped by ICRISAT, had been broken during the DHL transport to Svalbard, and the seed samples had been moved to a DHL cardboard box. In cooperation with ICRISAT, an inventory of the content was carried out, revealing that four samples were missing. ICRISAT will send new samples of these four accessions, bringing the content of the seed box in accordance with the valid seed deposit accession list.

3. External project support

Through 2025, NordGen has cooperated closely with Crop Trust within the Norwegian funded BOLD project (*Biodiversity for Opportunities, Livelihoods and Development*), and with the ITPGRFA secretariat within projects supported by the Benefit Sharing Fund.

BOLD work packages WP1 and WP4, are funding genebank activities with, among other objectives, the purpose of securing duplicates of genebank collections in the Seed Vault. The Benefit sharing Fund has supported projects aiming at securing plant genetic resources in the Seed Vault. Genebanks in the least developed and low-income countries have been prioritized by both funding facilities. NordGen has informed about guidelines and routines for depositing seeds in the Seed Vault through individual email communication and through on-line lectures with partners.

The Benefit Sharing Fund has supported projects leading to new institutes signing the Deposit Agreement and securing seeds in the Seed Vault; the Scientific Research Center of Agriculture, Georgia, Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agraria, Peru, the Philippine Rice Research Institute and Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnologia Agricolas, Guatemala.

With support from WP1, emergency fund, NordGen, and ICARDA, Sudan deposited 1,884 accessions (15 species) during the February 2025 opening. At the October opening, deposits were also made by INRA-Morocco, INIAP-Ecuador, and NPGRC-Tanzania through SADC/SPGRC).

Work package 4 of the Crop Trust organized BOLD-project aims at supporting regeneration and safety duplication at the Seed Vault and first level at national, regional or international genebanks. Work package 1 has a broader scope, but as a result of supported projects, genetic resources should be secured in the Seed Vault.

A major part of genebanks supported by the BOLD-project had deposited seeds before 2025, however, seed deposits from these institutes were supported in 2025: Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre,

Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, Can Tho University, Vietnam and Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute.

Crop Trust organized a workshop in Longyearbyen for BOLD work package 4 partners back-to-back with the February seed deposit event, making it possible for around ten depositor genebanks to be represented. Many of these deposited seeds at this occasion.

4. Data management

NordGen maintains and updates the Seed Portal database. The Seed Portal keeps accurate records of deposited seed samples, depositors, species, seed deposit events etc., and it displays basic data in a publicly accessible interface at https://seedvault.nordgen.org/.

After the introduction of the Seed Portal 2.0 in 2021, a significant cleanup of the database taxonomy has been carried out. The genera and species database registers are updated and consistent with internationally agreed taxonomy. The register of full scientific names (the Seed Portal taxon list) consists of a broad diversity of taxonomic names and levels, reflecting use and spelling of authors and taxonomy practices in genebanks. The Seed Portal policy is to accept this diversity and leave the taxonomy database as a comprehensive list for validating samples, still with strict references to correct binomial species names (genus + species epithet).

Some Seed Portal functionalities have been improved during 2025. A routine for replacing previously updated accession lists has been introduced along with a routine for adding taxon names to the register of Full scientific names. The accession list template has been updated, leaving binomial species names as mandatory information while more complex taxon names should be inserted in a separate column as voluntary information. By the end of 2025, test versions of these routines are available. Routines will be fully implemented when testing has been completed.

By the end of the year, 1238 genera and 6521 species are represented in the Seed Vault. Having the genera and species registers updated provides opportunities for reporting increases in these numbers. During 2025 seeds belonging to 54 new genera and 224 new species were deposited in the Seed Vault.

In total, 52 datasets have been validated and uploaded to the Seed Portal in 2025 (24 sets in 2021, 34 in 2022, 46 in 2023 and 59 in 2024).

5. The International Advisory Panel

The fourth meeting of the International Advisory Panel (IAP) was organized in Longyearbyen on the 24th and the 25th of February 2025. IAP members for the fourth meeting have been:

- Alwin Kopse, Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland, Chairperson
- Dagmar Janovska, Crop Research Institute, Czech Republic
- Axel Diederichsen, Plant Gene Resources Canada (digital participation)
- Mohd Norfaizal Bin Ghazalli, Agrobiodiversity and Environment Research Centre, Malaysia
- Oliver Oliveros, UN Agroecology Coalition, Italy
- Marie-Noelle Ndjiondjop, AfricaRice, Cote d'Ivoire
- Kristin Børresen, Graminor, Norway
- Lise Lykke Steffensen, NordGen, IAP Secretary

Observers:

- Kent Nnadozie, FAO / ITPGRFA
- Stefan Schmitz, Global Crop Diversity Trust
- Luigi Guarino, Crop Trust
- Grethe Helene Evjen, Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Geir Dalholt, Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food

The NordGen secretariate consisted of NordGen Director Lise Lykke Steffensen, NordGen Administrative Coordinator Josefin Granö and Seed Vault Coordinator Åsmund Asdal.

Figure 5. IAP members and observers gathered outside the Seed Vault after inspection of the premises and routines, from the left, Kent Nnadozie, Alwin Kopse, Oliver Oliveros, Lise Lykke Steffensen, Dagmar Janovska, Mohd Norfaizal Bin Ghazalli, Kristin Børresen, Marie-Noelle Ndjiondjop, Åsmund Asdal, Grethe Helene Evjen and Geir Dalholt.

A comprehensive report from the meeting is available. After the meeting, a one-pager with highlights was shared with genebanks, international organizations and other stakeholders:

a) Following a thorough physical inspection of the Seed Vault, the IAP found the handling and storage of seed boxes to be exemplary. The seed boxes are stored in accordance with the FAO genebanks standards and NordGen's management operations are ensuring the integrity and safety of the seeds.

b) The IAP reviewed the safety and security measures in place for the Seed Vault, including recent upgrades to the premises and the implementation of comprehensive risk assessments. The Panel commends the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food for their diligent efforts in maintaining the Seed Vault's integrity and security.

c) The need for robust safety back-ups for genebanks was emphasized, with discussions on how to encourage countries and genebanks to prioritize these measures. The IAP highlighted the importance of transparency and the non-political nature of the Seed Vault's work to build trust among stakeholders.

d) The IAP addressed the procedures for replacing previously deposited seed samples. Seeds do not last forever, and periodic monitoring of seed viability is essential. Seed samples must be replaced when they lose viability. The IAP recommends clear communication and notification processes to inform depositors about the need for redepositing seeds

6. Public awareness activities

In accordance with the Three-Party Agreement and with the work plan and budget for 2025, NordGen has worked considerably with public outreach activities, coordinated with the partners in the Seed Vault Communication Group.

In general, the public and media interest for the Svalbard Global Seed Vault is high. Good work in the three partner Communication group and assistance from external public awareness companies coordinated by Crop Trust regarding media outreach in connection with Seed Vault openings has contributed significantly to comprehensive media coverage during 2025.

As in previous years, information about the Svalbard Global Seed Vault has been passed on through several platforms: responding to questions about the operation from the public and from media, presentations and lectures for different scientific and public audiences, media interviews, social media posts and written articles. NordGen has contributed text and photos for information material and the Seed Vault official web site.

In 2025, staff from NordGen's communications team attended Seed Vault deposit events in February, June, August and October as an in-kind contribution to document the events and visits and share images and videos with media, the Seed Vault partners and other interested actors.

Information about lectures in 2025 can be found in annex 4. A significant part of the presentations has been given through online platforms.

NordGen organized a side event to the ITPRFA Governing Body meeting in Lima, Peru on Monday the 24th of November.; "*From the Peruvian Andes to Svalbard Global Seed Vault – An arctic backup facility preserving the PGRs of the world*". The side event was chaired by NordGen director Lene Krøl Andersen, and presentations were given by Kent Nnadozie, ITPGRFA, Alwin Kopse, Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland, Sarada Krishnan, Crop Trust, Germany, Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim, Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ricardo and Ricardian Pacco, Parque de la Papa, Peru and Åsmund Asdal, NordGen.

NordGen also took part in developing and organizing an exhibition for the IT/GB meeting together with partners FAO / the Plant Treaty, Crop Trust, CGIAR Genebanks and CIP.

Figure 6. An impressive exhibition about plant diversity was shown on the lower floor of the conference building. In the middle part, FAO / the Plant Treaty, Crop Trust, CGIAR Genebanks and NordGen informed about their work, including the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. The Centre exhibition was surrounded by food plant diversity exhibitions organized by the local genebank Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agraria and Peruvian farmer communities and associations.

The Seed Vault has a strong position as an iconic symbol for the importance of conserving plant genetic resources, and genebank representatives and media teams have attended all three Seed Vault openings in 2025. Interviews have been given, either during the Seed Vault opening weeks or through online platforms. When genebanks or other stakeholders are represented, meetings and ceremonies are organized in the management building.

Coordinated by the Communication Group, press releases were produced and distributed at all deposit events, containing information about the upcoming seed deposits, highlighting and inclusion of

information and quotes from some of the depositing genebanks and statements from the Seed Vault partners.

Highlights of the three Seed Vault openings are:

<u>24th and 25th February 2025:</u>

a) Representatives from around 15 genebanks participated in the seed deposit event on Wednesday the 25th of February. This high number of genebank attendees was due to a workshop organized by Crop Trust in Longyearbyen for BOLD partners and to the IAP meeting the same week.
b) The International Advisory Panel witnessed seed deposits from 20 genebanks. The State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Hanne-Berit Brekken participated in the IAP meeting and assisted during the seed deposit event on the 25th of February.
c) Crop Trust organized the *Inaugural International Svalbard Dialogue: Saving Seeds for the Long Haul*. The NordGen director Lise Lykke Steffensen opened the dialogue and World Food Prize laureates 2024, Cary Fowler and Geoff Hawtin were among the contributors. Both had key roles during the establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.
d) Seeds samples, rescued from the civil war in Sudan, by the Sudanese Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Research Centre in 2024, were finally deployed in the Seed Vault after being re-dried and packed at the NordGen seed lab in Alnarp, Sweden.

Figure 7. Hanne-Berit Brekken, the State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food assisted during the security check of seed boxes for the February Seed Vault opening.

Figure 8. The Scientific Research Center of Agriculture in Georgia deposited seeds for the first time in February 2025. Their delegation assisted during the security scanning of their seed box at the airport together with the IT/GB IAP attendees.

3rd - 4th of June, including the 29th of May 2025:

a) A delegation from Austria, representatives from the Austrian genebank Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) and a TV team from Österreichisches Rundfunk attended and made a TV program about AGES and its Seed Vault seed deposit program.
b) On the 29th of May, David Lammy, Foreign minister United Kingdom and his Norwegian colleague Espen Barth Eide visited the Seed Vault and assisted when deposits were made from the British Warwick Genetic Resources Unit and from the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA).
c) The first-time depositor Can Tho University from Vietnam and the US Seed Savers Exchange, who is the only genebank that has deposited seeds every year since 2008, were among the 13 depositor genebanks for the June Seed Vault opening.
d) The remaining test seed samples belonging to the 100-year seed longevity experiment in the Seed Vault were put in place inside the test boxes in the Seed Vault. The establishment of the experiment is now completed.

Figure 9. The UK Minister of Foreign Affairs, David Lammy and his Norwegian colleague Espen Barth Eide visited the Seed Vault on the 29th of May, here together with the Seed Vault Coordinator Åsmund Asdal. Photo; Vicky Buckingham, UK Embassy in Oslo, Norway.

Figure 10. Seed delivery from Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES). Sylvia Vogl from AGES and Grethe Evjen from the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food holding the seed box. Other attendees are Fredrik Kollberg, Lene Krøl Andersen and Åsmund Asdal, all from NordGen. Sylvia Vogl has received a Deposit Certificate signed by the Norwegian Minister of Agriculture and Food.

The Danish Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Jacob Jensen visited Svalbard mid-august. NordGen staff went to Svalbard and organized an extra NordGen seed deposit event for the Minister on the 17th of August. Formally, this deposit was part of and displayed in the Seed Portal as an October seed deposit.

Figure 11. A NordGen seed deposit was organized for the Danish Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Jacob Jensen when he visited visited Svalbard in August 2025. Photo shows the Minister together with NordGen director Lene Krøl Andersen in front of the Seed Vault.

21st and 22nd October 2025:

a) Two more genebanks deposited seeds for the first time in October; Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agraria (INIA), Peru and Philippine Rice Research Institute, bringing the total number of newcomers in 2025 up to eight.
b) Four genebanks were represented at the seed deposit event on Tuesday the 21st of October; INIA, Peru, the Tanzania department of the World Vegetable Centre, Uzbek Research Institute of Plant Industry and Station Federale de Recherches en Production Vegetale de Changins, Switzerland. The FAO/Plant Treaty secretariate was also represented due to BSF-support for the INIA-deposit and to the upcoming IT/GB meeting organized in cooperation with Peru and Switzerland.

Figure 12. President of INIA, Peru, Jorge Ganosa (left) and Julio Antonio Ubillus Ramirez, from the Peruvian Embassy in Norway carrying Peruvian seeds to the Seed Vault entrance. Right image; Genebank manager for Africa's Vegetable Genebank, WorldVeg in Tanzania Sognigbe N'Danikou, carrying seeds from his genebank to the Seed Vault front door.

Figure 13. Representatives from the FAO regional office in Uzbekistan bringing seeds from the FAO supported seed deposit from Uzbek Research Institute of Plant Industry. From the left; Muhammadjon Kosimo, Aziz Nurbekov and Sherzod Umarov.

NordGen has received and responded to a significant number of emails from media, scientists, politicians and the public during 2025. No exact statistics are made, but the number of emails and inquiries is estimated to be on the same level as in previous years; 2023, which experienced extra publicity related to the 15-year anniversary, and 2024.

7. Long term seed storage experiments

Establishment of the *100 year Seed Longevity Experiment in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault* that started in 2020 is now accomplished. The project includes seeds of 14 different crops and six genebanks as project partners producing seeds for the experiment. According to the scientific design, seeds of five genotypes of each crop are produced over three years and deployed in the Seed Vault after drying and packing at the NordGen seed laboratory. Identical samples will be taken out and analyzed for germination every tenth year. Partners and crops are shown in table 6.

Due to the covid pandemic and to bureaucratic difficulties with shipments of seeds from genebanks located outside Europe, the establishment of the project took more time than expected. However, NordGen is happy to report that the last seed samples belonging to the experiment were put in the test seed boxes inside the Seed Vault in 2025.

Table 6. Crops and genebank institutes included in the experiment.

Institute delivering seeds	**Crops**
National Rice Seed Storage Laboratory for Genetic Resources (NRSSL), Thailand	Rice (*Oryza sativa*)
Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Germany	Barley (*Hordeum*), pea (*Pisum)*, wheat (*Triticum*), lettuce (*Lactuca)* and *Brassica oleracea* [1)]
The International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), India	Groundnut *(Arachis),* chickpea (*Cicer*), pearl millet (*Pennisetum*), Sorghum (*Sorghum*) and pigeon pea (*Cajanus*)
Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária, INIAV, Portugal	Maize (*Zea mays*)
Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa), Brazil	Soybean (*Glycine max*)
Nordic Genetic Resource Centre, Sweden	Timothy (*Phleum pratense*)

A start-up report on paper with information about accessions and crops and initial germination percentage and moisture content has been placed in all test boxes together with instructions for seed lab tests when boxes are taken out for examination. Test material and boxes are registered as test boxes to the Seed Portal database.

8. Accession data on nanofilm

The nanofilm project increases the security and integrity of conserved seed sample data by printing box wise data on nanofilm and attaching film stripes to all seed boxes in the Seed Vault. Preparing accession data and producing film stripes for 3142 boxes deposited before the end of 2021 was completed in 2022. Attachment of film labels have been carried out during spare hours and days during Seed Vault opening weeks, and the backlog from years up to 2021 has been caught up.

Film stripes/labels to 470 boxes deposited in 2022 and 2023 have been attached to the corresponding boxes during 2025. Printing labels for another 210 boxes deposited in 2024 have been printed in 2025, for being attached during 2026. For future years, nano film labels will be produced and attached to boxes once a year, as a yearly routine included in the Seed Vault annual workplans and core budgets.

9. Financial result

Key figures for funding and the financial result and account wise budget and spending for 2025 are shown in Annex 2. The approved budget for 2025 amounted to SEK 4,049,413,-. Working Capital fund balance available was SEK 600,260 and partner contributions totalling SEK 3,415,221,-, adjusted for currency exchange rate effects. The total costs for 2025 amounted to SEK 3,783,211, - resulting in a working capital fund of SEK 272,456, - by the end of 2025.

Main differences between approved budget and account wise spending are due to overspending related to improvements and upgrade of the Seed Portal and travels for the Plant Treaty Governing body meeting in Lima compensated by less spending on travel costs for the IAP meeting and on the two non-core activity projects that were finalized in 2025.

Weaknesses and bugs in the Seed Portal have been mitigated and improvements in the public interface and in genebank communication tools have been implemented. NordGen switched to a new data service partner in 2024, and because this new company needed extra working hours to become familiar with the system, higher costs were incurred. Major parts of this extra expenditure were compensated by lower travel costs in more project accounts. Some costs for IAP members travel in 2025 had been paid for already in 2024.

Directing and interaction with partners

Total spending compared to the budget shows a surplus of SEK 43,663, -. Spending on working hours and travels is lower than the budget, mainly because a planned physical contact meeting was conducted digitally.

Administration, planning and documentation

Total spending is quite in accordance with the budget.

Liaising with depositors and handling of seeds

Total spending for 2025 is quite in accordance with the budget, some more working hours registered, compensated by lower spending on travels.

Data management

Spending on data management shows a deficit of SEK 65,884, -. Overspending on a costly upgrade of the Seed Portal is partly compensated by less working hours and travel costs (and less spending on other accounts).

Communication attracting new depositor genebanks

Total spending shows a surplus of SEK 36,207, -, which is mainly due to less travels because lectures in conferences and educational workshops gathering potential depositor genebanks have been given on-line.

Public awareness activities

Total spending compared to the budget shows a deficit of SEK 64,492. Interest from media has in general been high during 2025, and many working hours have been spent on responding to media inquiries on different platforms. Higher spending is mainly due to travels for participation in the Plant Treaty Governing Body meeting in Lima, that was not included in the budget.

International Advisory Panel

Total spending shows a surplus of SEK 23,874, -. Some costs related to travel arrangements for IAP members was paid for already in 2024, and secretary assistance was lower than budgeted, partly because preparations were done already in 2024 and partly because working hours have been registered on the Administration, planning and organization account.

Long term storage experiment

Total spending shows a surplus of SEK 46.896, -. Remaining seed lab work needed for finalizing the experiment turned out to be less than expected, and due to internal NordGen accounting routines some tasks in the Seed lab became in-kind contributions covered by the regular NordGen budget. The 100-year seed longevity experiment in the Seed Vault is now fully established, and no expenditures will incur before the first test seeds are taken out for germination analysis in 2030.

Conserving data on long-term storage medium

Total spending shows a surplus of SEK 55,044, -. Travel costs have not incurred because travels to Svalbard for attaching nanofilm labels to boxes have been coordinated with other travels, related to seed deposit events and meeting stakeholders and media. The positive balance has been utilized to purchase a stock of label holders, sufficient for approximately 4-6 more years.

Annex 1. List of depositors to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault listed in order of Deposit Agreement signature. Updated pr 31. Dec. 2025.

Acronym	Country	Institute name	Wiews code	SDA	Accessions end 2025
WARDA	International, Benin	Africa Rice Center	CIV033	2007/2008	22381
CIAT	International, Columbia	Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical	COL003	2007/2008	58406
CATIE	International, Costa Rica	The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center	CRI001	2007/2008	2414
ILRI	International, Ethiopia	International Livestock Research Institute	ETH013	2007/2008	10501
ICRISAT	International, India	International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics	IND002	2007/2008	128206
ICRAF	International, Kenya	World Agroforestry Centre	KEN023	30.01.2008	2268
CIMMYT	International, Mexico	Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo	MEX002	2007/2008	187083
IITA	International, Nigeria	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture	NGA057	2007/2008	24448
CIP	International, Peru	Centro Internacional de la Papa	PER001	2007/2008	9931
IRRI	International, Philippines	International Rice Research Institute	PHL001	2007/2008	133707
ICARDA	International, Lebanon / Morocco	International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas	SYR002/ LBN002	2007/2008	124658
AVRDC	International, Taiwan	The World Vegetable Center	TWN001	2007/2008	58919
NORDGEN	Regional, Sweden	Nordic Genetic Resource Center	SWE054	30.01.2008	30718
IPK	Germany	Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research	DEU146	30.01.2008	69671

CGN	Netherlands	Centre for Genetic Resources	NLD037	30.01.2008	23161
PGRI-NARC	Pakistan	Plant Genetic Resources Institute, National Agricultural Research Centre	PAK001	30.01.2008	4932
SSE	USA	Seed Savers Exchange	USA974	30.01.2008	4384
NGBK	Kenya	Kenya Agricultural & Live-stock Research Organisation (KALRO): Genetic Resources Research Centre	KEN015	26.02.2008	4707
NAC / RDI	South Korea	National Agrobiodiversity Center	KOR043	06.05.2008	Transferred to KOR011
IAS	North-Macedonia	Institute of Agriculture Skopje	MKDxxx	11.06.2008	0
NBPGR	India	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	IND001	04.07.2008	3292
VIR	Russia	N.I. Vavilov All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Plant Industry	RUS001	04.07.2008	6082
RAC	Switzerland	Station Federale de Recherches en Production Vegetale de Changins	CHE001	27.10.2008	12242
EMBRAPA	Brazil	The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation	BRA008	06.11.2008	8125
AFT	Ireland	Oak Park Research Centre	IRL001	16.01.2009	577
DAFF	Ireland	Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	IRL029	22.01.2009	435
TARI	Taiwan	Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute	TWN006	26.02.2009	10993
UAAS	Ukraine	Institute of Plant Production n.a. V.Y. Yurjev of UAAS	UKR001	03.03.2009	2782
PGRC	Canada	Plant Gene Resources of Canada, Canadian Genetic Resources Program	CAN004	05.11.2009	34952
ILRF	Georgia	I. Lomouri Research Institute of Farming.	GEO001	23.02.2010	305

AAS	North Korea	Pyongyang AAS	PRK013	18.03.2010	5700
UNALM	Peru	Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina	PER002	25.05.2010	1296
ICCI	Israel	Institute of Cereal Crop Improvement, Tel Aviv University	ISR003	23.06.2010	941
DELEP	USA	Desert Legume Program. University of Arizona	USA971	24.08.2010	134
ARC	Sudan	Agricultural Research Corporation	SDN034	18.10.2010	Transferred to SDN002
SPGRC	Regional, Zambia	SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre	ZMB030	09.11.2010	16725
NAGREF	Greece	National Agricultural Research Organization	GRC035	02.02.2011	25
ICABIOGRAD	Indonesia	Indonesian Center for Agricultural Biotechnology and Genetic Resources	IDN179	02.02.2011	1050
MPGRPPD	Myanmar	Department of Agricultural Research	MMR003	23.02.2011	718
INIAP	Ecuador	Instituto Nacional Autónomo de Investiga-ciónes Agropecuarias	ECU076	12.04.2011	1058
NARO	Uganda	National Agricultural Research Organization	UGA031	26.05.2011	Transferred to UGA528
BARI	Bangladesh	Plant Genetic Resource Centre, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute	BGD164	10.06.2011	0
LSB	Italy	University of Pavia, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Lombardy seed bank	ITA411	23.06.2011	2
NACGRAB	Nigeria	National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology	NGA010	06.09.2011	2092
IRAG	Guinea	Institut de Recherche Agronomique de Guinée	GIN020	07.10.2011	0
RNGRC	Tajikistan	Republican National Genetic Resource Center	TJK027	14.11.2011	1646

AGRI	Azerbaijan	Genetic Resources Institute of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences	AZE015	17.02.2012	1522
INRB	Portugal	Instituto Nacional de Recursos Biológicos	PRT005	05.03.2012	Transferred to PRT001
ISABU	Burundi	Agricultural Research Institute of Burundi	BDI003	19.06.2012	1933
IER	Mali	Institute of Rural Economy	MLI002	19.09.2012	4136
PSARTI	Mongolia	Plant Science Agricultural Research Institute	MNG030	02.10.2012	360
INIA La Platina	Chile	Unidad de Recursos Genéticos -INIA La Platina	CHL002	03.10.2012	Transferred to CHL044
AUG	Georgia	Georgia State Agrarian University	GEO028	15.10.2012	120
NPGRL	Philippines	National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory	PHL129	18.10.2012	3461
ASAU	Armenia	Armenian State Agrarian University, Laboratory of Plant Gene Pool and Breeding	ARM035	16.12.2012	175
CN FCRC	Thailand	Chai Nat Field Crops Research Center	THA214	01.03.2013	150
UzRIPI	Uzbekistan	Uzbek Research Institute of Plant Industry	UZB006	01.03.2013	2058
SARDI	Australia	South Australian Research and Development Institute	AUS006	12.06.2013	Transferred to AUS167
AGG	Australia	Australian Grains Genebank/Australian Tropical Crops Collection	AUS165	26.11.2013	27152
BWPRC	Japan	National University Corporation Okayama University	JPN009	26.11.2013	5922
NRSSL	Thailand	National Rice Seed Storage Laboratory for Genetic Resources, Rice Department	THA012	14.08.2013	1606

AGES	Austria	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, Department for Plant Genetic Resources	AUT001	17.03.2014	2363
BGRIPGR	Bulgaria	Institute for Plant Genetic Resources "K.Malkov"	BGR001	17.03.2014	2119
NCGRP	USA	National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation, USDA	USA996	SIGNED 18.01.2015	156950
NFSC	Norway	The Norwegian Forest Seed Centre	NOR056	08.01.2015	290
Luke	Finland	Natural Resources Institute Finland	FIN027	21.01.2015	7
CRI	Czech Republic	Crop Research Institute	CZE122	28.08.2015	2132
UCR-CIA	Costa Rica	Universidad de Costa Rica	CRI092	08.09.2015	Transferred to CRI003
PdeP	Peru	Parque de la Papa	PER862	09.09.2015	750
AGRESEARCH	New Zealand	Margot Forde Germplasm Centre	NZL001	11.1.2016	2802
CHAIPATT	Thailand	Chaipattana Foundation	THA513	11.2.2016	34
APG	Australia	Australian Pastures Gene Bank	AUS167	11.3.2016	38422
GRIBL	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Genetic Resources Institute, University of Banja Luka	BIH039	16.6.2016	1148
INRA	France	National Institute for Agricultural Research	FRA040	16.6.2016	2
TLL	Singapore	Temasec Life Sciences Laboratories Ltd.	SGP008	19.8.2016	7
JHI	UK	James Hutton Institute	GBR251	09.11.2016	1416
MNREC	Myanmar	Myanmar Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	MMR075	09.11.2016	491 Orchid collection
RPCNASBAF	Belarus	Scientific Practical Centre of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Arable Farming	BLR011	17.01.2017	341

METK (formerly ETKI)	Estonia	Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge	EST019	25.10.2017	236
SVKPIEST	Slovak Republic	National Agricultural and Food Centre	SVK001	08.01.2018	1591
INIAV	Portugal	Banco Português de Germoplasma Vegetal	PRT001	26.02.2018	1549
INIA	Chile	Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias	CHL044	06.04.2018	145
DOA	Thailand	Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	THA032	09.08.2018	55
UKVGB	United Kingdom	University of Warwick	GBR006	13.08.2018	1376
LSFRI	Latvia	Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava"	LVA009	28.10.2018	246
BDNA	South-Korea	Baekdudaegan National Arboretum	KOR048	03.06.2019	10
APGRC	Sudan	Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Research Centre	SDN002	13.09.2019	4727
JKI	Germany	Julius Kühn Institute	DEU451	30.09.2019	19
IHAR	Poland	Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute	POL003	09.10.2019	13403
BRGV	Romania	Suceava genebank "Mihai Christea"	ROM007	23.10.2019	1284
MSB, Kew	United Kingdom	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	GBR004	18.12.2019	25
UCR	Costa Rica	Universidad de Costa Rica	CRI003	08.09.2015 (as CRI092)	187
LARI	Lebanon	Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute	LBN020	14.01.2020	453
ICGB	Israel	Wild Cereal Genebank, University of Haifa	ISR037	30.03.2020	661
CN	USA	Cherokee Nation	USA1005	21.01.2020	9
INRA	Morocco	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique	MAR123	24.02.2020	1846

JIC	United Kingdom	John Innes Centre, Germplasm Resources Unit	GBR247	10.07.2020	4933
RDA / NAC	South Korea	RDA genebank/National Agrobiodiversity Center	KOR011 (former KOR043)	12.10.2020 New code confirmed	42272
IFVCNS	Serbia	Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops	SRB002	23.08.2021	96
UNGB	Uganda	Uganda National Genebank	UGA528 (former UGA031)	06.09.2021 New code confirmed	946
CSIC	Spain	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investiga-ciones Cientificas	ESP004	28.02.2022	1187
VMT	Lithuania	State Forest Service	LTU021	28.04.2022	203
INIA	Uruguay	Instituto Nacional de Investigacion Agropecuaria	URY003	12.08.2022	3462
SBSTC-MOA	Iraq	Directorate of Seed Testing and Certification	IRQ001	29.08.2022	418
IPGR	Albania	Institute of Plant Genetic Resources	ALB026	24.10.2022	1900
SCVIC	Armenia	Scientific Centre of Vegetable and Industrial Crops	ARM008	23.01.2023	234
ASC / ANAU	Armenia	Agrobiotechnology Scientific Center, Armenian National Agrarian University	ARM059	06.02.2023	1865
BRAC	Bangladesh	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	BGD099	07.02.2023	725
IBBR	Italy	Institute of Biosciences and BioResources - National Research Council	ITA436	10.02.2023	592
GRIGADEB	Benin	Groupe de Recherche, Innovation agricole, Gestion de la biodiversité et Action pour un développement Durable et Equitable à la Base	BEN098	13.02.2023	1203

HRPGB	Croatia	National Plant Genebank, Ministry of Agriculture	HRV059	15.02.2023	208
FABIA	North-Macedonia	FABIA CSB Bogdanci	MKD007	15.02.2023	341
OAU	Nigeria	Obafemi Awolowo university	NGA026	22.03.2023	560
KSRIAPG	Kazakhstan	Kazakh Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture and Plant Growing	KAZ014	15.05.2023	522
CSIR - PGRRI	Ghana	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Plant Genetic Resources Research Institute	GHA091	19.06.2023	420
EGF	Cameroon	Ecogerm Farmers	CMR205	19.06.2023	990
ABGBONN	Germany	Botanical Garden, University of Bonn	DEU038	13.10.2023	12
SSN	Kenya	Seed Savers Network Association	KEN214	23.10.2023	1000
BIT	Indonesia	Borneo Institute	IDN415	06.11.2023	294
INERA	Burkina Faso	Institute of Environment and Agricultural Research	BFA057	19.02.2024	1040
LSU	Zimbabwe	Lupane State University	ZWE107	05.04.2024	0
BERC	Nigeria	Biodiversity Education and Resource Centre	NGA136	15.01.2024	362
FOFIFA	Madagascar	The National Center for Applied Research on Rural Development	MDG036	18.01.2024	1045
ABU	Nigeria	Ahmadu Bello University	NGA021	14.03.2024	406
PFF	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, University of Sarajevo	BIH036	19.02.2024	252
GbioS/PAGEV	Benin	Laboratory of Genetics, Biotechnology and Seed Sciences	BEN097	21.05.2024	2954
INRAB	Benin	Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin	BEN025	21.05.2024	381

UCC	Ghana	University of Cape Coast	GHA021	11.06.2024	100
PhilRice	Philippines	Philippine Rice Research Institute	PHL158	12.08.2024	4417
MPGRC	Malawi	Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre	MWI041	09.09.2024	813
NARI	Papua New Guinea	National Agricultural Research Institute	PNG025	20.09.2024	520
IASA	Bolivia	Instituto de Agroecología y Seguridad Alimentaria de la Universidad Mayor Real y Pontificia de San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca	BOL321	07.10.2024	500
ADRON	Suriname	Anne van Dijk Rice Research Centre Nickerie	SUR007	28.10.2024	577
FASF	North Macedonia	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food, Skopje, North Macedonia	MKD001	28.10.2024	0
ITRAD	Chad	Institut Tchadien de Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement	TCD022	30.10.2024	1145
UAWC	Palestine	Union of Agricultural Work Committees	PSE001	30.10.2024	23
NIHORT	Nigeria	National Horticultural Research Institute	NGA003	30.10.2024	199
CTU	Vietnam	Can Tho University	VNM139	13.01.2025	1000
ICBA	United Arab Emirates	The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture	ARE003	14.01.2025	290
MARDI	Malaysia	Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute	MYS219	14.01.2025	725
SRCA	Georgia	Scientific Research Center of Agriculture	GEO040	25.02.2025	206
Sveaskog	Sweden	Sveaskogs förvaltning AB	SWE142	10.03.2025	8
ICTA	Guatemala	Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnologia Agricolas	GTM001	06.08.2025	0
INIA	Peru	Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agraria	PER773	14.10.2025	25

Annex 2. Budget and spending 2025

Budget - Svalbard Global Seed Vault
NordGens management and operation 2025

Activity area/activity		Budget currency SEK	Actual currency SEK	Budget against actual
Directing and interaction with partners	Management and meetings	286 154	288 810	
Project no 709513	Management assistance and meetings	71 188	46 155	
	Travels	40 000	18 714	
	Sub-total	**397 342**	**353 679**	43 663
Administration, planning and documentation	Administration management	98 105	89 283	
Project no 709524	Support accounts, archive & logistics	59 461	56 541	
	Support project coordinator	44 093	51 720	
	Documents and background information	427 128	451 107	
	Travels	15 000	0	
	Sub-total	**643 787**	**648 651**	-4 863
Liaising with depositors and handling of seeds	Communication & Seed handling	498 317	482 271	
Project no 709515	Seed handling in Svalbard	96 018	101 030	
	Travel	120 000	99 100	
	Contracted services	40 000	76 175	
	Sub-total	**754 334**	**758 577**	-4 242
Data management	IT & Seed Portal support	33 745	50 891	
Project no 709514	Preparing datasets and Seed Portal updat	142 376	87 914	
	Contracted services	100 000	218 200	
	Travel	15 000	0	
	Sub-total	**291 121**	**357 005**	-65 884
Communication attracting new depositor gene banks	Communication activities	213 564	205 705	
Project no 709525	Travel	25 000	11 652	
	Shipment costs	15 000	0	
	Sub-total	**253 564**	**217 357**	36 207
Public awareness activities	Respond to enquiries, lectures/articles, we	355 940	311 708	
Project no 709516	Travel	50 000	158 725	
	Sub-total	**405 940**	**470 433**	-64 492
International Advisory Panel	Secretary	357 693	362 700	
Project no 709517	Secretary assistance	66 140	0	
	Secretary assistance	0	0	
	Logistics arrangments	42 472	40 155	
	Travel	120 000	108 226	
	Meeting costs	120 000	171 350	
	Sub-total	**706 305**	**682 431**	23 874
	Basic costs Svalbard incl IAP 709517	**3 452 395**	**3 488 132**	-35 738
	Basic costs Svalbard excl IAP 709517	**2 746 090**	**2 805 702**	-59 611
Long term storage experiment in the Seed Vault	Coordination	0	0	
Project no 709529	Preparing and handling of test samples	48 919	24 524	
	Seed technician	60 000	0	
	Contracted seed analysis program	90 000	114 860	
	Shipment costs	10 000	22 639	
	Sub-total	**208 919**	**162 023**	46 896
Conserving data on long-term storage medium	Administration	0	0	
Project no 709523	Compiling data	13 498	0	
	Staff	9 602	20 000	
	Travel	10 000	0	
	Contracted services	155 000	113 056	
	Sub-total	**188 100**	**133 056**	55 044
	Sub-total	**397 019**	**295 079**	101 940
	Reservation of Currency difference 202	**200 000**		

	Budget	Actual	Diff budget/Actual 2025
Total Costs	**4 049 414**	**3 783 211**	266 203
Total Costs EURO	**354 270**	**349 714**	

exkl reservation currency difference 2025

RESULT

Actual costs 2025	**3 783 211**
Income 2025	**3 415 221**
Result 2025	**-367 990**
Transfer to WCF 2025	**-367 990**

INCOME	**BUDGET**	**ACTUAL**
	Total Income 2025	Total Income 2025
Crop Trust Funding 2025	1 604 398	1 570 465
NordGen Funding 2025	114 869	114 869
LMD Funding 2025	1 729 887	1 729 887
	3 449 154	**3 415 221**

WCF

	Working capital fund	
Total Working capital fund 31 dec 2021	**866 191**	2021
Total Working capital fund 31 dec 2022	**518 762**	2022
Total Working capital fund 31 dec 2023	**600 260**	2023
Total Working capital fund 31 dec 2024	**640 446**	2024
Prel Working capital fund 31 dec 2025	**272 456**	2025

Annex 3. Key figures - deposits and depositors

Seed deposits, depositors, seed boxes in the Seed Vault and seed deposit events for 2017-2024, actual numbers for each year and accumulated figures.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Seed accessions [1) 2)]									
Accessions deposited	64403	92638	32572	82501	50926	69825	71895	64331	46781
Deposited accessions in total, by 31.12	983316	1075954	1108526	1191027	1241953	1311778	1383673	1448004	1494785
Withdrawals [3)]	54354		24064	40			12		1
Total withdrawals by 31.12.	92430	92430	116494	116534	116534	116534	116546	116546	116547
Seed Vault collection by 31.12	890886	983524	992032	1074493	1125419	1195244	1267127	1331458	1378238
Depositors									
Depositors	15	30	7	42	22	31	41	54	47
New depositors	3	3	3	8	2	4	9	21	9
Total number of depositors by 31.12	74	77	80	87	89	93	102	123	131
New signatories	2	6	6	5	1	5	14	18	7
Total number of signatories by 31.12	79	85	91	96	97	102	116	134	141
Number of deposit events	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Seed boxes [1)]									
Number of deposited boxes	173	277	113	256	165	216	254	210	167
Total number of deposited boxes	2704	2981	3094	3350	3515	3731	3985	4195	4362
Number of retrieved boxes	161		36						
Total number of retrieved boxes	289	289	325	325	325	325	325	325	325
Boxes in the Vault by 31.12	2415	2692	2769	3025	3190	3406	3660	3870	4037

1) *Test seed samples and test boxes are not included.*
2) *Deposited seed samples not registered in the Seed Portal database are not included. These are seeds from Svalbard native flora, orchid seeds from Myanmar and pasture seed mixtures deposited by Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew in the UK.*
3) *Details on withdrawals in Annual report table 5*

Annex 4. Lectures and presentations 2025

Lene Krøl Andersen:

12.6. Introduction to NordGen and Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Presentation during the ministerial meeting for Fisheries and aquaculture, agriculture, food and forestry (MR-FJLS) that was held in Kuopio, Finland.

10.9. The Nordic Pantry. Lecture on NordGen and Svalbard Global Seed Vault when Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research met at the University of Copenhagen.

Åsmund Asdal:

06.2. The Seeds of Tomorrow: Addressing climate change with the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Webinar organized by Climate Governance Malaysia. Online presentation.

24.2. Overview of the Seed Vaults Operation and its Significance in PGR Conservation. Lecture at workshop in the project Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change: Biodiversity for Opportunities, Livelihoods and Development (BOLD), organized by Crop Trust. Longyearbyen, Norway.

26.2. Seed longevity experiments in Svalbard: Results from the ongoing investigations in the coal mine and plans for a new experiment in the Seed Vault. Presentation for visitors to Coal Mine #3, Longyearbyen, Norway.

26.3. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Online lecture for University in the Community, Toronto, Canada.

10.4. The Seed Vault operations and the role of genebanks. On-line presentations for Svalbard Museum staff.

03.6. Management and operation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Lecture on seed deposit event for delegations from Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, National Agricultural and Food Centre, Slovakia and media teams. Seed Vault Technical building, Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway.

18.6. Depositing material in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Lecture in on-line webinar organized by the ITPGRFA secretariate: Linking on farm conservation of PGRFA to broader conservation efforts: from farmers' fields to Global Seed Vault. For BSF partners located in Africa, Near East, Europe and the Caribbean.

19.6. Depositing material in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Lecture in on-line webinar organized by the ITPGRFA secretariate: Linking on farm conservation of PGRFA to broader conservation efforts: from farmers' fields to Global Seed Vault. For BSF partners located in Asia and the Southwest Pacific.

21.8 Om plantegenetiske ressurser - deres bruk og bevaring. Presentation Urtearv fagseminar organized by KVANN, Linderud gård, Oslo, Norway

27.8. Seed longevity experiments in Svalbard: Results from the ongoing investigations in the coal mine and plans for the new long-term experiment in the Seed Vault. Lunch and Learn seminar, Crop Trust, Bonn, Germany. On-line presentation

27.8 Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Highlights 2025 & forward-looking activities. Presentation NordGen board meeting, NordGen, Alnarp, Sweden.

08.10 Svalbard globale frøhvelv. Historien, hvor står vi i dag og vegen videre. Vitenparken, Ås, Norway. Organized by Vitenparkens Venner, NIBIO og Vitenparken, Campus Ås.

16.10. Svalbard Global Seed Vault – Mission and operation. Lecture for students at the university course; "Emergency preparedness and response in the Arctic". University of Stavanger / UNIS, Longyearbyen, Norway.

16.10. Svalbard Globale Frøhvelv – Noahs ark for frø i Arktis. Orientering på kurs for Riksadvokatembetet. Longyearbyen, Norway.

21.10. Svalbard Global Seed Vault – Mission and operation. Presentation at the seed deposit ceremony on the October Seed Vault opening event. Svalbard Global Seed Vault, Longyearbyen, Norway.

06.11. Svalbard Global Seed Vault - Conserving Genetic Resources for Future Food Security. Online lecture at Multicountry capacity building workshop on the ITPGRFA. Organized by FAO / Plant Treaty, Ankara, Türkiye 5.-7. November 2025.

24.11. Depositing seeds in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Presentation at the side event: *From the Peruvian Andes to Svalbard Global Seed Vault – An arctic backup facility preserving the PGR's of the world,* organized by NordGen at the ITPRFA Governing Body meeting in Lima, Peru.

Annex 5. Publications 2025

Asdal, Å. 2025. Frövalvet på Svalbard säkrar världens fröer. Biodiverse, nummer 2-3, 2025. SLU Centrum för biologisk mångfald (CBM), Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet, Sweden. ISSN: 1401-5064.

Asdal, Å. 2025. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault – conserving plant genetic resources for European and global food security. In Genetic Resources (2025), (S2), 49-57. https://www.genresj.org. ISSN: 2708-3764.